County of San Luis Obispo
Department of Public Works
County Government Center, Room 206
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
www.slocounty.ca.gov/PW.htm

Water Quality Report

Lopez Project

System Number 4010022

2024

Public Works will be a valued community partner enhancing quality of life for our fellow county residents.

YOUR 2024 WATER QUALITY REPORT

The County of San Luis Obispo is pleased to present this annual report describing the quality of your drinking water. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. We sincerely hope this report gives you the information you seek and have a right to know. Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse con el Condado de San Luis Obispo, County Government Center, Room 206, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408, (805) 781-1406 para asistirlo en español.

YOUR WATER SUPPLY

Source water for Lopez Project comes from Lopez Lake, located approximately 10 miles east of Arroyo Grande. The lake is part of a 67-square mile watershed and has a storage capacity of 49,200 acre-feet, or about 16 billion gallons of water. The water is conveyed 3 miles by pipeline to the Lopez Terminal Reservoir adjacent to the Lopez Water Treatment Plant (WTP). The water is held in the Terminal for over a month before entering the WTP. During that time, particles settle out of the water, and exposure to sunlight helps reduce the risk of bacterial and viral contamination from human contact in Lopez Lake.

Full Lopez Lake 2023 after winter storms (Swim area)

A watershed sanitary survey is conducted every five years. The first survey was done by Boyle Engineering in 1996. In March 2021, the most recent watershed sanitary survey was published (please see link below). A Drinking Water Source Assessment was also performed in 2003. The survey and assessment identify potential contaminating activities in the watershed and assess their impact on the raw and treated water quality. Lopez Lake and Lopez Terminal Reservoir were found to be the most vulnerable to wastewater generation at the Lopez Recreation Area, livestock near the reservoirs, and a roadway that bisects the Terminal Reservoir. To date, these activities have not adversely impacted the WTP-treated water quality. A copy of the survey or assessment can be found on the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works website or by contacting the Water Quality Unit at (805) 781-5111.

Drinking Water Source Assessment
https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Forms-Documents/Water-Resources/Drinking-Water-Source-Assessments/Lopez-Project-DWSAP.pdf

Watershed Sanitary Survey
http:/www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/PublicWorks/Services/Watershed-SanitarySurveys.aspx

A portion of your water comes from the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) Polonio Pass Water Treatment Plant. The CCWA was formed to treat and deliver water from the State Water Project to San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties. Source water for the Polonio Pass plant comes from the California State Water Project operated by the California Department of Water Resources. The State Water Project consists of 21 different reservoirs throughout the State. Water is conveyed to the Polonio Pass WTP by the Coastal Branch Aqueduct completed in 1997. Additional information on the State Water Project can be found at https://water.ca.gov/Programs/State-Water-Project.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides** that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) prescribe regulations that limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health. State Board regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

WATER QUALITY

The following tables are a snapshot of drinking water constituents that were detected in your water in 2024, unless otherwise noted. The State allows us to monitor for some substances less than once per year because the concentrations do not change frequently. Some of our data, although representative, may be more than one year old. The presence of these substances detected in water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. For questions about this data, please contact the Water Quality Unit at (805) 781-5111.

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

Constituent (Units)	MCL, TT, RAL, or [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) or [MRDLG]	**Lopez WTP-Treated Water**[1]		**Delivered Water**[2]		**Distribution**[3]		Potential Source of Contamination
			Range detected	Average detected	Range detected	Average detected	Range detected	Average detected	
Turbidity[4]	TT = 95% of samples each month ≤ 0.1 NTU	N/A	100%	100%	-----	-----	-----	-----	Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is a good indicator of water quality.
	TT = 1 NTU	N/A	0.08-0.09	0.08	-----	-----	-----	-----	
Total Coliform Bacteria (Present or Absent)	Not to exceed 5.0% of monthly samples positive[5]	(0)	-----	ND	-----	ND	-----	Present (4 samples)[6]	Naturally present in the environment.
Heterotrophic Bacteria (CFU/mL)	TT = <500	-----	ND-4	ND	ND-510	13.5	ND-5600[7]	42	Naturally present in the environment.
Aluminum (ppm)	1	0.6	ND	ND	ND	ND	-----	-----	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes.
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0.004	2.9-3.0	3.0	1.9-3.5	2.5	-----	-----	Erosion of natural deposits

[1] Lopez WTP "Treated" water – Water samples collected from the Lopez Water Treatment Facility just before blending with the State Water Project supply.
[2] "Delivered" Water – Water samples collected that represent the blending of "Treated" water and water delivered through the State Water Project.
[3] "Distribution"- Delivered water collected at various turnouts in the distribution system to be used for daily operations and regulatory sampling.
[4] Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.
[5] Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present.
[6] During our Level 1 assessment, we found no indications that our plant was malfunctioning during the time of the positive bacteriological samples. All operations complied and operating normally.
[7] 5600 CFU/mL for distributed water is an unusually high result for CSA 12. Due to this high value, a sample was recollected to verify the accuracy of the result. The recollected sample showed no detectable HPCs. The high result does not represent the usual water quality in the system for 2024.

Constituent (Units)	MCL, TT, RAL, or [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) or [MRDLG]	Lopez WTP Treated Water[1]		Delivered Water[2]		Distribution[3]		Potential Source of Contamination
			Range detected	Average detected	Range detected	Average detected (LRAA High)	Range detected	Average detected (LRAA High)	
Barium (ppm)	2	2	-----	0.036	-----	0.028	-----	-----	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	RAL = 1.3	0.3	-----	0.058	-----	0.009	-----	-----	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	2	1	-----	0.32	-----	0.32	-----	-----	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	15	N/A	1.08-4.92 (2022)	3.0 (2022)	3.1-4.7 (2022)	3.9 (2022)	-----	-----	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80 (LRAA)[8]	-----	29-76	38.4	34-110	46.5	34.3-59.0	44.8 (LRAA Max)	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	10	-----	0.048	0.048	-----	-----	-----	-----	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60 (LRAA)[9]	-----	19.3-24.5	23	22-27	24.6	23.3-29.4	27.9 (LRRA Max)	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Total Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL = 4.0 as Cl_2.[10]	MRDL = 4.0 as Cl2	1.39-3.46	2.74	1.46-3.06	2.50	0.16-3.18	2.02	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment.
Free Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL = 4.0 as Cl_2.[11]	MRDL = 4.0 as Cl2	2.50-4.18.[12]	3.43	2.22-3.44	2.84	0.71-3.17	2.02	
Chlorite (ppm)	1.0 (delivered and distribution avg.)	0.05	0.20-0.89	0.68	0.10-0.83	0.57	0.36-0.76	0.60	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Chlorate (ppb)	RAL = 800	-----	-----	-----	0.19-450	290	180-500	294	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Chlorine Dioxide (ppb)	MRDL=800 as ClO_2	[800]	ND-560	111	ND-190	ND	ND-240	ND	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment.

8 Compliance is based on the locational running annual average of samples; elevated total trihalomethanes for one quarter due to annual disinfection change for pipeline maintenance.

9 Compliance is based on the locational running annual average of samples; elevated total haloacetic acids for one quarter due to annual disinfection change for pipeline maintenance.

[10] The MRDL for free and total chlorine is based on a running annual average of distribution system samples.

[11] Free chlorine was utilized from November 18th- December 9th as a routine maintenance procedure. This annual switchover of disinfectants helps to ensure water mains remain free of potentially harmful bacteria.

[12] "Lopez WTP treated water" was over 4.0 ppm on a single sample. MRDL regulations were met for Delivered and Distribution samples

Constituents with a Secondary Drinking Water Standards (Aesthetics)

Constituent (Units)	MCL, TT, RAL, or [MRDL]	Lopez WTP Treated Water[1]		Delivered Water[2]		Violation?	Potential Source of Contamination
		Range detected	Average detected	Range detected	Average detected		
Aluminum (µg/L)	200	ND	ND	ND	ND	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes.
Chloride (mg/L)	500	-----	20	-----	28	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits.
Color (CU)	15	3.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	No	Naturally occurring organic materials.
Odor - Threshold (TON)	3	ND-2.0	1.4	ND-2.0	1.2	No	Naturally occurring organic materials.
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	1600	-----	650	-----	620	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits.
Sulfate (mg/L)	500	-----	96	-----	91	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence.
Turbidity (NTU)	5	-----	0.11	-----	0.11	No	Soil runoff.
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)	1000	400-480	440	360-460	410	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence.

Some additional constituents monitored at our source water but did not detect above State reporting limits: antimony, beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury, MBAS, nickel, nitrite, nitrate, perchlorate, potassium, selenium, silver, VOC, and zinc.

The Utilities Division Water Quality Unit provides laboratory and technical services to support the beneficial management of water and wastewater for the present and future residents of the County of San Luis Obispo.

Lead and Copper Monitoring (Distribution System) 2017

Constituent (Unit)	Number of Samples	90th percentile	Regulatory Action Level (RAL)	PHG	Violation	Potential Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	6	2.6	15	0.2	None	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	6	0.023	1.3	0.3	None	

Per California Assembly Bill 746 (AB 746) and at the request of <u>one</u> local school within our system, below is a summary of the lead and copper results for the sample locations at Bellevue-Santa Fe Charter School.

Lead and Copper Monitoring (Bellevue-Santa Fe Charter School) 10/2018

Constituent (Unit)	Number of Samples	Range (Average)	Regulatory Action Level (RAL)	PHG	Violation	Potential Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	10	0-2.6 (0.7)	15	0.2	None	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	10	0.360 (0.190)	1.3	0.3	None	

Constituents with No MCL

Constituent (Reporting units)	Lopez WTP[1]		Delivered[2]		Potential Source of Contamination
	Range	Average	Range	Average	
Alkalinity as CaCO3 (ppm)	191-227	210	143-226	190	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence.
Calcium (ppm)	66-82	76	52-81	66	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence.
Hardness as CaCO3 (ppm)	220-334	274	270-334	310	Generally found in ground and surface water.
Magnesium (ppm)	25-32	30	21-32	27	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence.
pH	7.39-8.49	7.85	7.26-8.60	7.92	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence.
Sodium (ppm)	-----	24	-----	28	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence.

Key Terms and Abbreviations

CFU/ml – Colony Forming Units per milliliter.
CU – Color Units.
Delivered Water - Water samples collected that represent the blending of "Treated" water and water delivered through the State Water Project.
Distribution – "Delivered" water collected at various turnouts in the distribution system to be used for daily operation or any required compliance samples (i.e. quarterly Disinfection byproducts and monthly TCR samples).
DWR – Department of Water Resources.
LRAA – Locational Running Annual Average. An average of quarterly samples from a particular monitoring location for one year.
Level 1 Assessment- A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
MCL – Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
MCLG – Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
mg/L – Milligrams per Liter.
mL – Milliliter.
MRDL – Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level. The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MRDLG – Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
MPN/100mL – Most Probable Number of organisms in a 100-mL sample.
NA – Not Analyzed.
ND – Not Detected. The contaminant is not detectable at the testing limit.
NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Unit.
pCi/L – Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).
PDWS – Primary Drinking Water Standards. MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements. PDWS pertains to the following: Filtration Performance, Microbiological Contaminants, Inorganic Contaminants, Radioactive Contaminants and Disinfection Byproducts, Disinfection Residuals, and Disinfection Byproduct Precursors.
PHG – Public Health Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.
ppb – Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L).
ppm – Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L).
Primary MCL – Maximum contaminant level for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible.
RAL – Regulatory Action Level. The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
Secondary MCLs – Maximum contaminant level for contaminants to protect the taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with secondary MCLs do not affect health at the MCL levels.
TON – Threshold Odor Number.
Treated Water – Water samples were collected from the Lopez Water Treatment Facility just prior to blending with State Water Project water.
TT – Treatment Technique. A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
µS/cm – Microsiemens per centimeter (unit of specific conductance of water).
µg/L – Micrograms per Liter.
USEPA – United States Environmental Protection Agency.

DRINKING WATER AND HEALTH RISKS

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct an assessment to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during this assessment. During the past year, we were required to conduct an assessment to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during the assessment. During the past year, we were required to conduct one Level 1 Assessment. There was no corrective action required after the completion of the assessment.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water typically comes from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The County of San Luis Obispo is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-425-4791) or at **http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.**

PFAS NATIONAL PRIMARY DRINKING WATER REGULATION

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are a series of man-made chemical compounds that persist in the environment for long periods. They are often called “forever chemicals.” For decades PFAS chemicals have been used in industry and consumer products such as nonstick cookware, waterproof clothing, firefighting foam at airports, and stain-resistant materials. The latest science shows that these chemicals are harmful to our health.

On April 10, 2024, the USEPA finalized national drinking water standards for five individual PFAS: PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHxS, and HFPO-DA (known as GenX Chemicals) and a Hazard Index level for two or more of four PFAS as a mixture: PFNA, PFHxS, HFPO-DA, and PFBS. These are legally

enforceable drinking water limits and reduce PFAS exposure for approximately 100 million Americans served by public drinking water systems.

In 2024, Lopez Raw and Lopez Water Treated were tested for PFAS. Very low levels of Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA) were detected in both samples, fortunately, this compound is not on the Federal regulation lists as a constituent of concern. All other constituents were not detected. Additional information for PFAS may be found at the following links: https://www.epa.gov/pfas and https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/pfas

CROSS CONNECTION

What is a Cross-Connection?

A cross-connection is any actual or potential connection between a potable (drinking) water supply and a non-potable source that could allow contaminants to enter the drinking water system. Common household hazards include garden hoses submerged in pools, irrigation systems, and improperly installed plumbing fixtures.

Why is This a Concern?

If a cross-connection occurs and backflow happens (when water flows backward into the drinking water system), contaminants such as pesticides, fertilizers, or bacteria can enter the water supply. This can pose significant health risks.

Common Residential Cross-Connection Risks:

- **Garden Hoses**: Leaving a hose submerged in a pool, bucket, or connected to a chemical sprayer without a backflow preventer.
- **Irrigation Systems**: A lack of proper backflow prevention can allow pesticides, fertilizers, and other lawn treatments to enter the drinking water supply.
- **Boilers and Water Heaters**: Without backflow prevention, pressure changes can allow boiler chemicals to flow into household plumbing.
- **Water Softeners and Treatment Systems**: Some systems can create cross-connections if not properly installed.

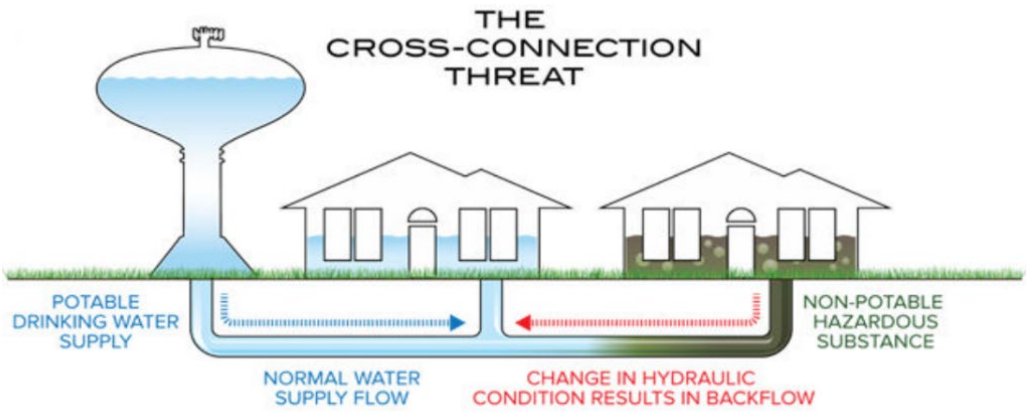
How Can You Prevent Contamination?

- **Install Backflow Prevention Devices**: Use hose bib vacuum breakers on outdoor spigots, and ensure proper backflow preventers are installed on irrigation and plumbing systems.
- **Keep Hoses Out of Contaminants**: Never leave hoses submerged in pools, buckets, or sinks.
- **Properly Maintain Plumbing Systems**: Ensure check valves, air gaps, and other protective measures are in place.
- **Hire a Licensed Plumber for Installations**: Professional installation of plumbing fixtures ensures compliance with safety regulations.

Your Role in Protecting Our Water Supply

Everyone plays a role in maintaining safe drinking water. Be aware of potential cross-connections in your home and take preventive measures to protect your family and community.

For more information, contact your local water utility or visit https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/departments/health-agency/public-health/environmental-health-services/cross-connection-control-program



LEAD AND COPPER RULE REVISION (LCRR)

The Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) enhanced the original Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) to provide stronger protection against lead exposure, particularly for children and communities. The key objectives of the LCRR include:

- Enhancing protections for children in schools and childcare facilities.
- Reducing lead contamination in the nation's drinking water.
- Empowering communities by providing clear and accessible information.

Lead Service Line Inventory Requirement

The LCRR mandates that water systems conduct a comprehensive record review to identify service line materials. This inventory helps ensure accurate documentation and assessment of potential lead exposure risks.

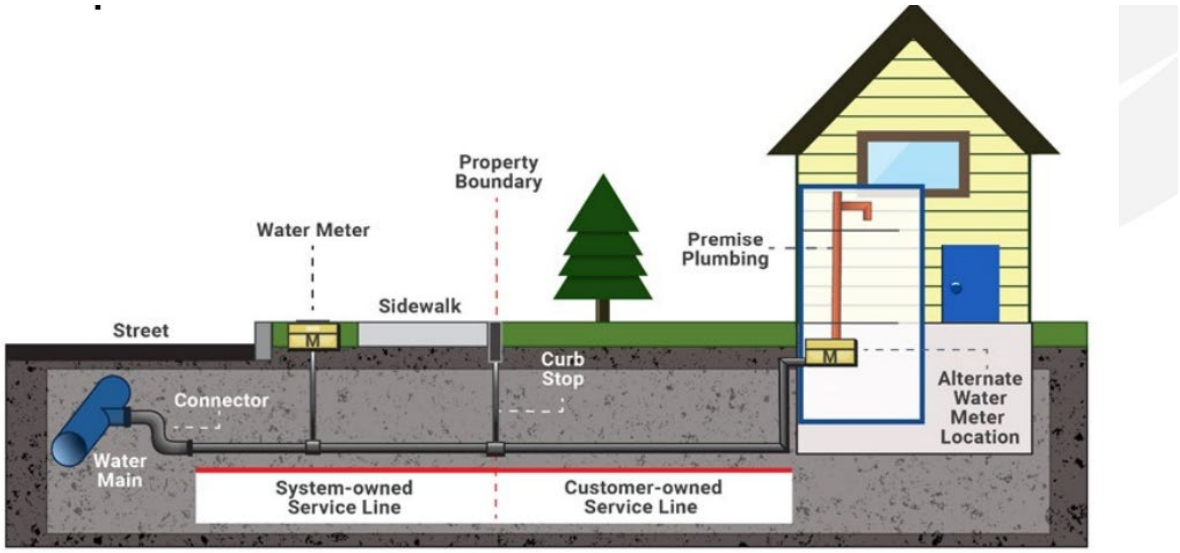
Sources for Service Line Inventory

Water systems must utilize the following sources to determine the material composition of service lines:

- **Construction and Plumbing Records:** Includes permits, codes, and other documentation that specify materials used in service line connections.
- **Water System Records:** Encompasses distribution system maps, drawings, historical service connection data, meter installation records, capital improvement plans, and standard operating procedures.
- **Inspections and Field Records:** Documentation from past inspections that indicate service line material composition.
- **State-Approved Resources:** Any additional methods or resources provided or required by the State to assess service line materials.

Initial Lead Inventory Completion

As of October 2024, all water systems have completed their initial lead service line inventories.



Source: Guidance for Developing and Maintaining a Service Line Inventory (U.S. EPA, 2022)

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION TIPS FOR CONSUMERS

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.

OPERATIONS STAFF

The Lopez Project is assigned eight certified water system operators who strive to provide the highest quality drinking water without interruption. Our operators are knowledgeable professionals who implement new treatment technologies, system upgrades and undergo continual training to improve the high-quality tap water delivered to your home.

Operators conduct weekly inspections of the reservoirs, clear well, tanks, and distribution system, collect samples, and analyze parameters in the field to ensure a safe and reliable water supply. Our exceptional staff responds to all water system needs every day and at any hour. In addition, the State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water (SWRCB-DDW) routinely

inspects the facilities, operating procedures, and water quality monitoring records to verify compliance with state and federal regulatory requirements.

WATER QUALITY SECTION

The Department of Public Works Water Quality Section provides laboratory and technical support services for most County operated water and wastewater systems. The lab is certified by the State of California's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP). To remain certified by the State, the lab is required to annually demonstrate capability by analyzing unknown values for each constituent. In addition to analytical work, Water Quality also provides sampling, compliance reporting, watershed monitoring, and technical support services for Public Works systems.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The County of San Luis Obispo was sued by several Environmental groups over the operations of Lopez Dam. On November 27, 2024, a federal Judge in Los Angeles determined the County's operations threaten Steelhead Trout under the Endangered Species Act. The Court subsequently ordered the County to, among other things, immediately release more water from Lopez Lake. The County has appealed the Court's decision.

Currently, the County is releasing 7.9 cfs (~5.1 million gallons per day) to adhere to the preliminary injunction issued by the Court with the potential to do pulse flow releases if certain triggers are met. Water deliveries to Zone 3 could be impacted by the current release schedule.

The County of San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors meets in the Board chambers located in the County Government Center at 1055 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo. The Board holds budget hearings during June. Interested persons should check the Board's agendas for specific dates. Agendas for all Board of Supervisors meetings are posted in some County libraries, the County Government Center, and on the Board of Supervisors website at http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Clerk-Recorder/All-Services/Board-of-Supervisors-Meetings.aspx

The public can also participate in the Zone 3 Advisory Group meetings. This group is composed of representatives from the Five-Cities area. The group meets at 10:30 am on the 3rd Thursday of January, March, May, July, September, and November. Information on meeting times and places are published in the newspaper or can be obtained from the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works Zone 3 web page at www.slocounty.ca.gov\PW\Zone3

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

County of San Luis Obispo
Department of Public Works
County Government Center, Room 206
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
www.slocounty.ca.gov/PW.htm

INTERNET SOURCES:

USEPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water
http://water.epa.gov/drink/index.cfm

California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/publicwatersystems.shtml

County of San Luis Obispo Water Quality Section
805-781-5111
PW_SLO_WQL@co.slo.ca.us
http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Our-Divisions/Water-Quality-Lab.aspx

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